

Claims

- [001] Method for generating an automatic authorization of shopping carts created during a procedure of electronic procurement of items depending on values stored in a database table, the method comprising:
- a) retrieving data from the database table including data representing a budget-value and data representing a cumulative amount spent during a specified time period assigned to the user performing the electronic procurement (26),
 - b) calculating the total value of items in the shopping cart,
 - c) comparing the sum of the value of the cumulative amount spent and the total value of items in the shopping cart with the budget-value (14),
 - d) if the sum lies within the budget-value
 - d1) generating the authorization (15), and
 - d2) updating the value of cumulative amount spent by the total value of items in the shopping cart (19),
 - e) if the sum lies not within the budget-value an indication is generated indicating that the budget is exceeded (16, 24).
- [002] The method of claim 1 wherein the items subject to electronic procurement include one of goods and services.
- [003] The method of claim 1 wherein the data is retrieved from two database tables (33, 34).
- [004] The method of claim 3 wherein the data retrieved from the first database table (33) includes at least one of a user identification, budget-value, currency of the budget-value, and time period for the budget-value.
- [005] The method of claim 3 wherein the data retrieved from the second database (34) table includes at least one of a user identification, cumulative amount spent, currency of cumulative amount spent, and spending-date.
- [006] The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
- a1) setting cumulative amount spent in the database table to an initial value (28), if the time period of the current date does not correspond to the time period of spending-date.
- [007] The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of:
- a2) setting the value of spending-date in the database table to the current date (29), if the time period of the current date does not correspond to the time period of spending-date.
- [008] The method of claim 1 wherein the indication includes a request for changing the contents of the shopping cart or for further authorization (16, 17).
- [009] Computer program product comprising program code means stored on a

- computer readable medium for performing the method of any one of the claims 1 to 8 when the program is run on a computer.
- [010] An article comprising a computer readable medium that stores executable instructions causing a computer system to:
- retrieve data from a database table including data representing a budget-value, data representing a time period for the budget-value, data representing a cumulative amount spent during the time period, data representing a spending-date, all being assigned to the user performing an electronic procurement (26), calculate the total value of items in a shopping cart created during a procedure of electronic procurement,
- compare the sum of the value of the cumulative amount spent and the value of items in the shopping cart with the budget-value (14),
- if the sum lies within the budget-value
- d1) generate the authorization (15) and
- d2) update the value of cumulative amount spent by the value of items in the shopping cart (19),
- e) if the sum lies not within the budget-value, an indication is generated indicating that the budget is exceeded (16, 24).
- [011] The article of claim 10 comprising further instructions causing a computer system to retrieve data from two database tables(33, 34).
- [012] The article of claim 11 comprising further instructions causing a computer system to retrieve data from the first database table (33) including at least one of a user identification, budget-value, currency of the budget-value, and time period for the budget-value.
- [013] The article of claim 11 comprising further instructions causing a computer system to retrieve data from the second database table (34) including at least one of a user identification, cumulative amount spent, currency of the cumulative amount spent, and spending-date.
- [014] The article of claim 10 comprising further instructions causing a computer system to:
- set cumulative amount spent to an initial value (28), if the time period of the current date does not correspond to the time period of spending-date.
- [015] The article of claim 14 comprising further instructions causing a computer system to:
- a2) setting the value of spending-date to the current date (29), if the time period of the current date does not correspond to the time period of spending-date.
- [016] The article of claim 10 comprising further instructions causing a computer system to:

create a request to change the contents of the shopping cart or to get further authorization (16, 17).

- [017] System for generating an automatic authorization of shopping carts created during a procedure of electronic procurement of items depending on values stored in a database table, the system comprising:
- information retrieval means (930) for getting data from the database table (33, 34) including data representing budget-value, time period for the budget-value, cumulative amount spent, and spending-date assigned to the user performing the electronic procurement,
 - computing means (910) for:
 - calculating the total value of items in the shopping cart,
 - for comparing the sum of the value of cumulative amount spent and the value of items in the shopping cart with the budget-value,
 - for generating the authorization and updating the value of cumulative amount spent by the value of items in the shopping cart if the sum lies within the budget-value,
 - and for generating an indication indicating that the budget is exceeded (16, 24).
- [018] The system of claim 17 wherein the data is retrieved from two database tables (33, 34).
- [019] The system of claim 18 wherein the data retrieved from the first database table (33) includes at least one of a user identification, budget-value, currency of the budget-value, and time period for the budget-value.
- [020] The system of claim 18 wherein the data retrieved from the second database table (34) includes at least one of a user identification, cumulative amount spent, currency of the cumulative amount spent, and spending-date.
- [021] The system of claim 17 further comprising:
information storage means (920) for setting cumulative amount spent to an initial value, if the time period of the current date does not correspond to the time period of spending-date.
- [022] The system of claim 21 wherein the information storage means (920) perform the step of setting the value of spending-date to the current date, if the time period of the current date does not correspond to the time period of spending-date.
- [023] The system of claim 17 wherein the items include at least one of goods and services.
- [024] The system of claim 17 wherein the indication includes a request for changing the contents of the shopping cart or for further authorization (16, 17)
- [025] System for generating an automated procurement authorization in an electronic

shopping system comprising:

- networking means (990) for allowing a user (900) to access a server (901, 902) managing a shop;
- display means (950) for displaying representations of items available in the shop for selecting, each item having a value, and a shopping cart on a screen to the user;
- selection means (940) for allowing the user to select items to be purchased on the screen and to put the selected items into the shopping cart;
- computing means (910) for memorizing a budget-value assigned to the user and a first variable representing the cumulative amount spent in the user's previous procurement transactions, for updating the first variable by the value of the selected items in the shopping cart, and for comparing the first variable with the budget-value;
- approval means for generating the automated procurement authorization, if the first variable is smaller than the budget-value, and for generating a message on the screen to the user, if the first variable exceeds the budget-value.

[026]

Method for generating an automated procurement authorization in an electronic shopping system wherein a client is accessing an electronic shop through a computer network:

- displaying representations of items available in the shop for selecting, each item having a value, and a shopping cart on a screen to the user;
- selecting items to be purchased and putting the selected items into the shopping cart;
- updating a first variable representing the cumulative amount spent in the user's previous procurement transactions by the value of the selected items in the shopping cart;
- comparing a budget-value assigned to the client with the first variable, and for the first variable with the budget-value;
- approval means for generating the automated procurement authorization, if the first variable is smaller than the budget-value, and for generating a message on the screen to the user, if the first variable exceeds the budget-value.